OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The main objectives of the Association, as set out in the statutes, are:
— to make known the figure and work of Pietro Porcinai;
— to promote initiatives furthering awareness, appreciation and protection of the person, his work and the documentary material of his professional and cultural activities;
— to catalogue and restore the drawings and documentary material conserved in the Porcinai Archives following scientifically valid, up-to-date criteria;
— to catalogue and conserve Porcinai’s completed works in Italy and overseas, also by requesting the declaration of cultural interest;
— to ensure that the works of the Florentine landscape architect are not damaged by incongruous or destructive restoration and that their surrounding landscape contexts are protected, in agreement with the appropriate Offices and other territorial authorities.

The activities undertaken by the Association, whether independently or in conjunction with cultural institutions, local authorities or anyone interested in its aims, both national and international, concern the following areas of interest:
— cataloguing and preserving Pietro Porcinai’s completed works in Italy and abroad, particularly the cataloguing and restoration of the drawings and documentary material in the “Porcinai Archives”;
— study and research, in close contact with scholars, cultural institutions and universities, directed at in-depth analysis of the figure of Porcinai as well as the means of custody and conservation of his work;
— publishing ventures with monographs, specific themes and unresolved issues, beginning with the completed work and the writings of the Tuscan landscape architect;
— exhibitions and public meetings, popularising activities, aiming to increase public awareness, training courses and study visits.
PIETRO PORCINAI  
(1910-1986)

Porcinai was born in 1910 at Villa Gamberaia in Settignano in the Florentine hills where his father was working as head gardener at the time. At an early age he found the means to overcome the existing shortcomings in Italy regarding professional development through contacts and experience outside the country, beginning with his first jobs in Belgium and Germany where he worked in parks and nurseries. His first projects in the 1930s already demonstrated a desire to change the style of Italian gardens after which he progressively matured, helped by his collaboration with crucial 20th century architects such as the BBPR studio, Franco Albini, Marco Zanuso and Oscar Niemeyer. These influences were decisive in developing an original work method which Porcinai even managed to promote abroad, through the International Federation of Landscape Architects and his contacts with the main landscape architects of his time including Geoffrey A. Jellicoe, Sylvia Crowe, René Pechère and Carl Theodor Sørensen. Porcinai’s work was consolidated from the 1950s onwards using an unprecedented professional structure for Italy and a range extending from private gardens to many other fields, including motorways, archaeological sites, ecology and environmental reclamation, as well as quality of industrial sites, all still unexplored territories in Italy at that time. In almost sixty years of activity, Porcinai showed a constant attention to all aspects of lifestyle. Apart from designing gardens and landscapes, he designed and built furniture, stands for shows and settings for festivals. His work always demonstrated a critical understanding of each site as well as its historic and environmental stratification, whilst never losing sight of the social changes affecting the 20th century European landscape.

HOW TO JOIN

To become a member it is necessary to request and complete the registration form available at info@asspietroporcinai.org or fax +39.055.3245223 followed by payment of the annual subscription.

Any person, authority or other association who agrees with the aims and the principles set out in the Statutes can join the Association.

THE PORCINAI ARCHIVES

The archives are kept in Porcinai’s original studio in Fiesole and mostly consist of documentation relating to 1,318 projects, most of which were completed. Not only do his projects show his intense activity in Italy and abroad, but also his library, correspondence and preparatory notes for conferences, articles and activities demonstrate his defence of the Italian landscape in favour of promoting a new landscape culture in Italy. The documentation of the different projects, the preparatory material for his photographic campaigns and the technical records of his correspondence all illustrate the intense relationship which developed between Porcinai and contemporary society. In 1997 the Porcinai Archives were declared to be of cultural interest and thus subject to current Italian preservation laws regarding private archives. The Tuscan Archives Office (Soprintendenza Archivistica della Toscana), in agreement with the heirs, has authorised consultation of the Archives by scholars from all over the world. The rooms in which they are kept have proved to be inadequate for their conservation; one of the main objectives of the Association is therefore to have all the material catalogued, conserved in digital form and restored in as short a time as possible and then to have it stored in more suitable rooms.